1 CLARK LAW FIRM, P.C. 63 East Main Street, Suite #501 2 Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 844-0039 3 etc@clarkfirm.com Ezra T. Clark, III (I.D. No. 14998) 4 Attorneys for Defendants 5 6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 DISTRICT OF ARIZONA 8 GAVIN HADALLER, Plaintiff. Case No. 9 NOTICE OF REMOVAL ٧. 10 SOLAR EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS, LLC, 11 an Arizona limited liability company; CLINT TAYLOR and JANE DOE TAYLOR, husband 12 and wife: NORAH SILVA and JOHN DOE SILVA, husband and wife, 13 Defendants. 14 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1441(a) and 1446(a), defendants hereby give notice of the 15 removal of this civil action from the Kyrene Justice Court, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, to 16 the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, on the grounds that jurisdiction in the 17 United States District Court is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §1331. Removal of the action arises 18 from and is appropriate for the following reasons: 19 1. On January 25, 2016, plaintiff filed a civil action against defendants in the Kyrene 20 Justice Court, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, cause number CC2016-015016. Pursuant to 28 21 U.S.C. §1446(a), a copy of the Complaint and Summons are attached hereto as Exhibits "A" and 22 "B", respectively. 23 2. Plaintiff perfected service of the Complaint on defendants by delivering a copy of the 24 Complaint to defendants Norah Silva on February 4, 2016 and Clint Taylor on February 5, 2016. 25 3. No further pleadings have been filed to date because defendants have chosen to 26 remove to federal court.

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4.	Receipt of the Complaint by the defendants as set forth above constitutes the first
receipt by	defendants of plaintiff's Complaint. Therefore, this Notice of Removal is timely under 28
U.S.C. §1	446(b).

- 5. In his Complaint, plaintiff alleges violations of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq*.
- 6. Accordingly, federal questions are present for purposes of jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331, and thus the action filed in the Kyrene Justice Court, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, cause number CC2016-015016 RC, may be removed to the United States District Court for the District of Arizona under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a).
- 7. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1446(d) and Local Rule 3.6, Rules of Practice of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, a copy of this Removal has been filed with the Clerk of the Kyrene Justice Court and served upon counsel for plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, defendants respectfully request that this Court assume full jurisdiction over the causes of action referenced herein as provided by law.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2016.

CLARK LAW FIRM, P.C.

/s/ Ezra T. Clark, III
Ezra T. Clark, III
63 East Main Street, 5th Floor
Mesa, Arizona 85201
Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 4, 2016, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following CM/ECF registrant:

PHILLIPS DAYES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff

Michelle L. Hadder Paralegal

PHILLIPS DAYES NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM A Professional Corporation 3101 North Central Avenue, Suite 1500 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 Telephone: 1-800-JOB-LAWS docket@phillipsdayeslaw.com TREY DAYES, No. 020805 SEAN DAVIS, No. 030754 (602) 288-1610 ext. 301 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 7 MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA KYRENE JUSTICE COURT 8 9 Case No.: ACADILOUISOILO RC Gavin Hadaller; 10 Plaintiff, 11 **COMPLAINT** VS. 12 Solar Employment Solutions, LLC, an 13 Arizona limited liability company; Clint Taylor and Jane Doe Taylor, husband and 14 wife; Norah Silva and John Doe Silva, husband and wife. 15 16 Plaintiff Gavin Hadaller, for his Complaint against Defendants, alleges as follows: 17 NATURE OF THE CASE 18 The Fair Labor Standards Act is designed to eliminate "labor conditions 19 detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, 20 efficiency and general well-being of workers." 29 U.S.C. § 202(a). To achieve its goals, 21 the FLSA sets minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for covered employers. See 22. 23 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a), 207(a). 24 Employers must compensate employees for all work that employers permit 25 EXHIBIT Complaint Page 1

employees to perform. See 29 C.F.R. § 785.11. In such cases, it is the responsibility of employers' management to ensure that work is not performed if management does not desire for such work to be performed. See 29 C.F.R. § 785.13. Employers may not accept the benefits of employees performing work without compensating the employees for their work. Id.

- 3. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants for unlawful failure to pay overtime wages in direct violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA").
- 4. Plaintiff also bring this action against Defendants for unlawful failure to pay failure to pay minimum wage in direct violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and the Arizona Minimum Wage Act, A.R.S. § 23-362, et seq.
- 5. Arizona law protects employees from employers seeking to pay less than minimum wage.
- 6. Under Arizona law, employers are required to pay minimum wages, currently set by the State at a rate of \$8.05 per hour.
- 7. An employer who fails to properly pay minimum wages to an employee is liable to the employee in the amount of the wages owed, interest on the unpaid wages, and as damages "an additional amount equal to twice the underpaid wages." A.R.S. § 23-364(G).
- 8. Defendants had a consistent policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff to work well in excess of forty (40) hours per week without paying them time and a half for hours worked over forty (40) hours per week.

9. Plaintiff seeks to recover unpaid minimum wage, overtime compensation and an equal amount of liquidated damages, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties hereto as the amounts involved in this matter are less than \$10,000.
- 11. Venue is proper under as the events giving rise to this cause of action occurred in the Kyrene district.

PARTIES

- 12. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was a resident of Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 13. At all times material hereto, Solar Employment Solutions, LLC was incorporated in the State of Arizona with its principal place of business in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 14. Upon information and belief, at all times material hereto, Defendant Clint Taylor, was and continues to be a resident of Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 15. Jane Doe Taylor is Clint Taylor's wife. Clint and Jane Doe Taylor have caused events to take place giving rise to this Complaint as to which their marital community is fully liable.
- 16. Upon information and belief, at all times material hereto, Defendant Norah Silva, was and continues to be a resident of Maricopa County, Arizona.
 - 17. John Doe Silva is Norah Silva's husband. Norah and John Doe Silva have

caused events to take place giving rise to this Complaint as to which their marital community is fully liable.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 18. Solar Employment Solutions, LLC specializes in residential and commercial solar electric systems.
- 19. Solar Employment Solutions, LLC hired Plaintiff in November of 2014 as a anvassing coordinator.
- 20. Plaintiff's job duties and responsibilities included developing and implementing policies for which Solar Employment Solutions, LLC would recruit new employees.
- 21. Plaintiff also was responsible for performing contacts and follow ups with the clientele of Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
- 22. Plaintiff also performed corporate outreach tasks to develop partnerships with other businesses to create referral streams of business for Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
- 23. Solar Employment Solutions, LLC compensated Plaintiff with a weekly salary of \$300 per week.
- 24. Defendants withheld taxes out of Plaintiff's paycheck pursuant to IRS regulations.
- 25. Plaintiff's regular schedule was six days per week and he would have to work every other Sunday.
 - 26. Plaintiff would average approximately 72.5 hours of work ever week.

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- 38. At all relevant times, each of the Defendants was and continues to be an "employer" as defined in A.R.S. §§ 23-350 or 23-362(B) (Version 2).
- 39. Each of the Defendants should be deemed an "employer" for purposes of the FLSA including, without limitation, 29 U.S.C. § 216.
- 40. Each of the Defendants should be deemed an "employer" for purposes of the Arizona Wage Laws including, without limitation, A.R.S. §§ 23-350 or 23-362(B) (Version 2).
- 41. Defendant Clint Taylor is deemed an "employer" for purposes of the FLSA, including, without limitation, 29 U.S.C. §216, and is co-equally liable with Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
- 42. Defendant Norah Silva is deemed an "employer" for purposes of the FLSA, including, without limitation, 29 U.S.C. §216, and is co-equally liable with Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
- 43. Defendant Clint Taylor is deemed an "employer" for purposes of the Arizona Wage Laws, including, without limitation, A.R.S. §§ 23-350 or 23-362(B) (Version 2), and is co-equally liable with Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
- 44. Defendant Norah Silva is deemed an "employer" for purposes of the Arizona Wage Laws, including, without limitation, A.R.S. §§ 23-350 or 23-362(B) (Version 2), and is co-equally liable with Solar Employment Solutions, LLC.
 - 45. All Defendants are co-equally liable for all matters.

- 46. Defendant Clint Taylor made all decisions on the daily activities of his employees and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 47. Defendant Clint Taylor makes all decisions regarding pay policies for Solar Employment Solutions, LLC and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 48. Defendant Norah Silva made all decisions on the daily activities of her employees and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 49. Defendant Norah Silva makes all decisions regarding pay policies for Solar Employment Solutions, LLC and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 50. Defendant Clint Taylor exerted financial control over Solar Employment Solutions, LLC and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 51. Defendant Clint Taylor exerted operative control over Solar Employment Solutions, LLC and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.
- 52. Defendant Norah Silva exerted financial control over Solar Employment Solutions, LLC and is therefore individually liable under the FLSA and the Arizona Wage Laws.

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66. At all times material to this action, Solar Employment Solutions, LLC was and continues to be an "enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for 67. Solar products Defendants used to provide their services were manufactured 68. Plaintiff handled supplies that originated out of state. 69. Plaintiff engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce and is therefore individually covered under the FLSA pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§206(a), 70. On information and belief, at all relevant times, the annual gross revenue of Defendants exceeded, and continues to exceed, \$500,000.00. 72. Defendants managed, supervised, and directed all aspects of Plaintiff's job 73. Plaintiff's primary duty was not the performance of work requiring advanced knowledge in a field of science or learning that was acquired by a prolonged course of 74. Plaintiff did not perform work requiring advanced knowledge. Plaintiff did not perform work in a field of science or learning.

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- 77. The knowledge required to perform the work is not acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual study.
- 78. Plaintiff's work did not require consistent exercise of discretion and judgment.
- 79. Plaintiff's work did not require him to analyze, interpret, or make deductions from varying facts or circumstances.
 - 80. Plaintiff's work did not require invention, imagination, originality, or talent.
- 81. Plaintiff's work did not require creative or original analysis and interpretation.
- 82. On January 5, 2015 Plaintiff approached Defendants and requested that Defendants compensate him properly. Specifically Plaintiff told Defendants that he should be paid at least minimum wage and overtime for all hours worked over forty in a week.
- 83. Defendant Clint Taylor chastised Plaintiff for attempting to discuss his wages and told Plaintiff to never bring up the topic again.
- 84. On February 16, 2015, after receiving another pay check with less hours than he should have been paid, below minimum wage and without any overtime, Plaintiff again addressed the issue with Defendant Clint Taylor.
- 85. Later that day, Defendant Clint Taylor terminated Plaintiff, solely in retaliation for Plaintiff requesting his proper wages under the FLSA.

86. Plaintiff has retained the law firm of Phillips Dayes National Employment
Law Firm to prosecute his claims against Defendants on his behalf and has agreed to pay
reasonable costs and attorney's fees in the prosecution of this matter.

COUNT ONE OVERTIME VIOLATION—29 U.S.C. § 207

- 87. Plaintiff incorporates and adopts the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 88. While employed by Defendants, Plaintiff regularly worked multiple hours of overtime per week.
 - 89. Plaintiff was a non-exempt employee.
- 90. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed and refused to pay Plaintiff overtime according to the provisions of the FLSA.
- 91. On information and belief, Defendants further engaged in a widespread pattern and practice of violating the provisions of the FLSA by failing to pay Plaintiff in accordance with 29 U.S.C. § 207.
- 92. As the direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations of the FLSA, Plaintiff has suffered damages by failing to receive compensation in accordance with 29 U.S.C. § 207.
- 93. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for an amount equal to one and one-half times his regular pay rate for each hour of overtime worked per week.

- 94. In addition to the amount of unpaid wages owed to Plaintiff, he is also entitled to recover an additional equal amount as liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 95. On information and belief, Defendants' conduct in failing to properly compensate Plaintiff, in violation of the FLSA, was willful.
- 96. Defendants have not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA.

 Plaintiff has been required to bring this action to recover his overtime compensation, and his statutory liquidated damages, and as the direct and foreseeable result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has incurred costs and attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in his favor against Defendants:

- a. Awarding Plaintiff overtime compensation in the amount due for all of his time worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a pay rate equal to one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay while at work for Defendants, in an amount proved at trial;
- Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the overtime award;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of the litigation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all amounts awarded under subsections (a) and (b) above from the date of the payment due for that pay period until paid in full;

- e. Awarding Plaintiff post-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all awards from the date of such award until paid in full; and
- f. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT TWO

MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATION—29 U.S.C. § 206

- 97. Plaintiff incorporates and adopts the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 98. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 206, Defendants were required to pay Plaintiff at least the amount of the federal minimum wage, when those wages were due, for each hour Plaintiff worked.
- 99. Defendants willfully failed and refused to pay Plaintiff at least the amount of the federal minimum wage when those wages were due.
- and the wages due, over the past three years, in an amount to be proved at trial, in addition to liquidated damages in the same amount, together with costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 101. Plaintiff has been required to bring this action to recover his federal minimum wages remaining due and unpaid, and his statutory liquidated damages, and as the direct and foreseeable result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has incurred costs and attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in his favor and against Defendants:

- Awarding Plaintiff compensation in the amount due for unpaid minimum wages in an amount proved at trial;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the award;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of the litigation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all amounts awarded under subsections (a) and (b) above from the date of the payment due for that pay period until paid in full;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff post-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all awards from the date of such award until paid in full; and
- f. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT THREE

MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATION—A.R.S §§ 23-363, -364

- 101. Plaintiff incorporates and adopts the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 102. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 23-363, Defendants were required to pay at least the amount of the Arizona minimum wage, when those wages were due, for each hour Plaintiff worked.
- 103. Defendants willfully failed and refused to pay Plaintiff at least the amount of the Arizona minimum wage when those wages were due.
- 104. Plaintiff is entitled to collect the difference between the wages they received and the wages due, over the past two years, in an amount to be proved at trial, together

with an additional amount equal to twice the underpaid wages, plus, without limitation, interest, costs, and attorney fees pursuant to A.R.S. § 23-364(G).

105. Plaintiff has been required to bring this action to recover his Arizona minimum wages remaining due and unpaid, and his statutory damages, and as the direct and foreseeable result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has incurred costs and attorneys' fees.

COUNT FOUR RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF THE FLSA

- 105. Plaintiffs incorporate and adopt the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 106. As set forth above, Plaintiffs were retaliated against for exercising their rights under the FLSA.
- 107. Pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 215(a)(3), it is unlawful to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed a complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceedings under or related to this chapter, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceedings, or has served or is about to serve on an industry committee..."
- 108. Such conduct not only includes formal complaints with a court or the Department of Labor, but also informal complaints to an employer. See Williamson v. Gen. Dynamics Corp., 208 F.3d 1144, 1151 (9th Cir. 2000).
- 109. Plaintiffs have suffered emotional distress, mental anguish, lost past and future wages as a result of Defendants' retaliatory conduct.

110. As a result of Defendants' retaliatory conduct, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and all other legal or equitable relief permitted under 29 U.S.C. § 216.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in his favor, and against Defendants:

- a. Awarding Plaintiff compensation in the amount due for unpaid minimum wages in an amount to be proved at trial;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff an additional amount equal to twice the underpaid wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of litigation pursuant to A.R.S. § 23-364(G);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all amounts awarded under subsections (A) and (B) above from the date of the payment due for that pay period until paid in full;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff post-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all awards from the date of such award until paid in full; and
- f. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 22, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

PHILLIPS DAYES NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM PC
By:

Trey Dayes Sean Davis Attorney for Plaintiff

Complaint

1	PHILLIPS DAYES	•		
2	NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM A Professional Corporation	.40		
3	3101 North Central Avenue, Suite 1100 Phoenix, Arizona 85012			
4	Telephone: 1-800-JOB-LAWS			
5	docket@phillipsdayeslaw.com TREY DAYES, No. 020805			
6	SEAN C. DAVIS, No. 030754 seand@phillipsdayeslaw.com			
7	Direct: (602) 288-1610 ext. 432 Attorneys for Plaintiff			
8	MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA			
9	ENCANTO JUS'	Case No.: 002010 - 015016		
10	Gavin Hadaller;	Case No.: CCDOTC OTSOTQ		
11	Plaintiff,	SUMMONS		
12				
13	VS.			
	Solar Employment Solutions, LLC, an Arizona	_		
14	limited liability company; Clint Taylor and Jane Doe Taylor, husband and wife; Norah Silva and			
15	John Doe Silva, husband and wife.			
16				
17	THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO THE ABOVE-NA	AMED DEFENDANT(S):		
18	1. YOU ARE SUMMONED to respond to this com	plaint by filing a written ANSWER with this		
19	Court and by paying the required fee. If you cannot afford to pay the required fee, you may request that the Court either waive or defer the fee.			
20	2. If you were served with this summons in the State of Arizona, the Court must receive your answer			
21	within twenty (20) calendar days from the date you State of Arizona, the Court must receive your answ	u were served. If you were served outside the		
22	you were served. If the last day is a Saturday, Sundworking day to file your answer. When calculating	day, or legal holiday, you will have until the next		
23	the summons.	, ame, do not count the day you were served with		
24	3. Your answer must be in writing.			
25	(a) You may obtain an answer form from this Cou	rt.		
	Summons	BIT Page 1		
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1	(b) You may also obtain an answer form from the Form section of the Maricopa County Justice Courts website at http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov . The direct link is:		
2	http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov/Forms/cv_Answer.pdf		
3	4. Provide a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff(s) or to the Plaintiff's attorney in accordance with JCRCP Rule 120.		
4	5. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THIS COURT WITHIN THE		
5	TIME INDICATED ABOVE, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU.		
6	DECUIESTS ROD DEASONARI E ACCOMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH		
7	REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MUST BE MADE TO THE COURT AT LEAST 3 JUDICIAL		
8	DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY SCHEDULED HEARING		
9	KYRENE KYRENE		
10	Date: Justice of the Peace KYRENE JUSTICE		
11	COPACO.		
12	You are required to keep the court advised of your current address and contact phone number. The clerk can provide you with a Notice of Change of Address form.		
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	Summons Page 2		